

# VARYING VIEWS ON U. S. PREPAREDNESS

## Garrison, Fletcher, Bryan and Taft Discuss Defences

War Secretary Declares Legislation Is Imperative to Build Up Army Reserve—No Fears for Navy, Says Rear Admiral.

### EX-PRESIDENT SEES NO PRESENT DANGER OF WAR

The question of the unpreparedness of the United States in the event of war was discussed from four different angles yesterday by Secretary of War Garrison, Rear Admiral Fletcher, ex-President Taft and Secretary of State Bryan.

Rear Admiral Fletcher, appearing before the House Committee on Naval Affairs, brought out these points:

The United States has no reason to fear any navy in the world, except possibly Great Britain.

In case of an emergency the fleet could put to sea ready for action within a week and the people could feel assured that it would give a good account of itself.

The submarine is a weapon of opportunity, but victory depends on modern battleships.

In his annual report Secretary Garrison opposes the policy of President Wilson and Secretary Bryan and urges the immediate addition of 25,000 men to the regular army and the training of 1,000 more officers. He also points out the need for legislation by which an adequate reserve can be built up through the army and the militia and he says that every thinking man must recognize the necessity of preparedness.

William H. Taft, in an address at Spemerville, Mass., declared that strengthening of our national defenses does not make for war. He said that the war in Europe makes the necessity for defense in the United States less than before.

He said that the only real possibility of war is the reckless handling of the alien labor question by Western States.

Secretary Bryan, in a speech in Baltimore, declared 1,000,000 men would answer in a day if President Wilson issued a call to arms and that the President's aim was to make the people so grateful that they would die willingly for their country.

## GARRISON OPPOSES WILSON, PLEADING FOR BIGGER ARMY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Those leaders of the Administration who have been belittling the demand for an investigation of the national defenses and denying the need for a better degree of preparedness for war received a hard blow from within their own camp in the annual report of Lindley M. Garrison, Secretary of War, made public here to-night. Unless these leaders change their attitude Secretary Garrison's report will undoubtedly involve him in a stirring controversy with them.

After twenty months spent in studying the military needs of the United States, Secretary Garrison has produced what is said to be one of the most remarkable essays on national defense ever made public here. Repudiating ideas about armaments and "militarism" voiced by Secretary Bryan and others, Mr. Garrison recommends the immediate increase of the army by 25,000 men. When outside garnisons are completed this increase will leave a mobile army of 49,602 men in continental United States.

He also recommends an immediate increase of 1,000 officers to fill the ranks of the regular army, and enough officers for special duty, such as instruction of militia.

**Evidence of Conflict.**  
The vigorous character of Secretary Garrison's statements contrasted with the President's remarks of yesterday, the chief criticism of which was that they lacked definiteness.

Evidence of a conflict of view between the President and his Secretary of War seemed to be found in the President's statement that "we must depend . . . not upon a standing army, nor upon a reserve army, while Secretary Garrison's report is that Congress recognize the imperative necessity and provide for the creation of a reserve. Though the President himself urged dependence on arms, his reference to a "reserve" was regarded as eliminating Secretary Garrison's proposals from what he had in mind.

Declaring existing laws "utterly useless," Mr. Garrison pronounces an "absolute imperative" the necessity for legislation which will build up a reserve of trained men, graduates of the regular army, at all times available for service.

**Reserve Now 16 Men.**  
The present law has in two years created a reserve of sixteen men. Mr. Garrison says he is indifferent to the length of the enlistment term if authority is given to the Secretary of War to turn a man into the reserve after twelve months, or whenever the man proves himself proficient in his duties.

He observes that the opposition to the reserve law, in which Chairman Hay of the House is one of the leaders, is based on the argument that a soldier cannot be made in less than three or four years. He points out that these men have been depending upon volunteers to be trained after the outbreak of war.

"Any one who takes the slightest trouble to investigate," he continues, "will find that in the event of a prepared enemy would progress so far on the way to success in six months, if his antagonist had to wait six months to meet him, that such unprepared antagonist might as well concede defeat without contest."

The Secretary then explains that the dependence of many Americans to a large army is due to the fact that the majority of them, or their ancestors, emigrated from countries in which soldiers were employed to impose on the people the autocratic will of oppressors. He contends, however, that fear of military domination here "is entirely inapplicable now, and does not furnish even a pre-emptive pretext" for opposing proper preparation. He declares that "no reasonable, prudent man who faces facts can reach the conclusion that the nation has no need for the preparation of its military resources 'to protect itself from domestic insurrections, to enforce its laws and to repel invasions.'"

**Should Present Facts.**  
"Unless and until the Congress of the United States, representing the people of the country, places on record the conclusion of the people to the contrary," he continues, "my duty is, I think, entirely clear, and that duty is to set forth the facts and the necessities growing out of the facts, and suggestions as to the ways and means of fulfilling such necessities."

"Whatever the future may hold in the way of agreements between nations, followed by actual disarmament thereof, or international courts of arbitration, and whatever the future may hold in the way of agreement between nations and nations, we all know that at present these conditions are not existing. We can and will eagerly adapt ourselves to such conditions, but we cannot and will not merely enfeeble ourselves in the meantime, in my view, by unthinking folly, by neglecting and refusing to



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Ex-President Taft.

I cannot sympathize with those clever gentlemen who oppose military and naval defenses for this country on the ground that they will make for war. I do not think so.

WILLIAM H. TAFT.

A year or eighteen months, we will begin once to build up the necessary reserve, and will for the first time in the military history of this country have something approximating a balanced organization.

I am therefore firmly convinced that we should have immediate legislation in line with the matter of enlistment and reserve. I am not so much concerned with the length of the enlistment provided the Secretary of War is given power to turn a man into the reserve at the end of twelve months those who have shown themselves proficient up to a required standard.

**Urges Militia Reserve.**

"A practically similar provision should exist in every State which maintains an organized militia. It is just as essential that the organized militia should have a proper reserve to fill up its ranks as it is that the regular army should. Of course I have been viewing this in the light of its military necessity. But there is a constant advantage which should not be overlooked. Inquiry among those who have employed men who have been discharged with good records from the army shows that they esteem them as among the best of men. They are the ones who doubt that any community would be economically benefited by the presence in it of strong, vigorous young men who have learned in the only school which really teaches the value of discipline and obedience to self-control, obedience to discipline and

**Not Enough Ammunition.**

The Secretary states that "We have enough to fight a war, but we have not enough ammunition" and urges that Congress make further increased appropriations for reserve supplies.

Of aviation he says:

"In present day strategy and tactics the Aviation Corps has bid fair to become the eyes of the army and a general commanding an army without an adequate flying corps is in the position of a blind man contending against a man with sight."

Also:

"The universal utilization of motor transportation in the present war has vastly increased the military and aerial mobility of the army. It is necessary that we keep abreast of the times in utilizing motor vehicles for army transportation. It might be worth while to devise ways and means of organizing into a volunteer motor transportation reserve the motor vehicles adaptable to military use now in the hands of private citizens."

Mr. Garrison declares he does not recommend at this time such substantial increases as would probably result from comprehensive study of the needs of the country, leaving that to the future. Calling attention to the fact that the increases in outside garrisons (which will, he declares, not give the Panama Canal an adequate defense) will leave 12,000 Coast Artillery troops in the United States and a mobile army of 2,602 men, or slightly more than twice the number of policemen in New York City.

**Wants 25,000 More Men.**

"My recommendation of what we should immediately do," the Secretary says, "is to fill up the existing organizations which compose the aggregate mobile army force just mentioned to their full strength. This would require 25,000 men. In addition to the enlisted men just mentioned we would need 1,000 officers. The instruction of the officers would require 1,000 more men. The regulation to accomplish these purposes would be of the very simplest character, being merely authorization to the Department to do these things."

"On June 30, 1914, 29.45 per cent of the line officers of the army were away from their commands. This results in depleting the proper quota of instructors in the army. The instruction of the organized militia suffers woefully from the lack of officers available for service with the militia. Efficient officers, above all things, cannot be improved."

"With the army thus increased we would then be able to undertake the next necessary, which is absolutely imperative, and that is the preparation of a reserve. The present law, which provides that a reserve has proved utterly useless for the purpose, it having produced in twenty-four months only sixteen men."

**Would Use Army as School.**

"I am firmly convinced that if we can use the standing army as a school through which to pass men who come into it, with the knowledge that if they are proficient they can be discharged at any time after

**SEND SANTA CLAUS TO THE NEEDY**

Our fifty-five visitors and visiting nurses know the real Christmas needs of those in misfortune.

Each is the sympathetic friend, adviser and director of hundreds of needy families—their social doctor.

Her contact with the unfortunate is as close and as personal as is that of neighbors.

She knows what you should give and where you should give it—where it is needed and where it will be appreciated.

She will be your personal representative.

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Admiral F. F. Fletcher.

We would not be able to protect ourselves against the strongest navy of the world, Great Britain's.

ADMIRAL F. F. FLETCHER.

determination to carry out the task which has been set for our fleet. We are determined that we should adopt some one or more of the methods which have been suggested for the training of our civilians. The course are the vast distances in this country; the smallness of the number of our troops, which makes it necessary to move them from place to place when the work has to be done in the higher positions of responsibility. There are so many important and varied posts on a war vessel that it takes several years to fill them properly."

The Secretary was asked whether he favored an international agreement for the reduction of armaments. He said:

"I think there is a little risk in it at present. I think we should wait until the policy we have in the past until an international agreement is reached and signed. Of course there is a strong sentiment that favorable opportunity for such an

**Expense No Object.**  
"I realize that one of the matters which will be much debated in connection with this whole subject will be the matter of expense. When one has reached the conclusion, as I have, that a minimum of military preparedness is essential the question of its cost is secondary and cannot be permitted to be a determining factor. No citizen will or can properly object to the expenditure of money for vital national purposes."

"Comparisons between costs of military establishments here and abroad will not result, as they usually do, in assuming an unwarranted expenditure for those purposes here if the factors necessary to be considered are kept in mind. Briefly these factors are the vast distances in this country; the smallness of the number of our troops, which makes it necessary to move them from place to place when the work has to be done in the higher positions of responsibility. There are so many important and varied posts on a war vessel that it takes several years to fill them properly."

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Admiral Fletcher discussed frankly the unpreparedness of the navy and other things. He likewise commented on the naval lessons taught by the war. The proceeding was one of the most remarkable ever witnessed before the Naval Committee of the House.

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The charge of Representative Gardner, who wants Congress to inquire into the state of national defense, that the public is kept in ignorance of the country's armaments, impelled Representative Fletcher to have Admiral Fletcher testify in public.

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LINDLEY M. GARRISON.

that the United States should build a larger navy than that of the West Indies. Target practice was the only logical conclusion is to have a navy that is competent and able to beat the whole world, but you must temper it with some discretion.

"My impression is that Germany under her present building programme will have in 1919 a larger navy than that of the United States if we continue to build only two battleships a year."

Admiral Fletcher declared that the American fleet could prevent, in his opinion, the capture of the Philippines by Japan or any other hostile power. In commenting on the efficiency of the navy Admiral Fletcher added:

"I do not know that the efficiency of the personnel of the fleet has ever been higher than it now is. The ships are in as high a state of efficiency as ever. The fleet exercises have not been held as frequently as formerly because of the necessity of stationing a part of the fleet at all times in Mexican waters and the West Indies. Target practice was somewhat interrupted, but every opportunity was taken advantage of to hold practice firing whenever possible."

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# Your business is as big as you are no bigger

There was a street vender in this town who became a big merchant, because the street vending business was too small for a man of his calibre.

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## Equitable Building

Temporary Office, 27 Pine Street

### BRYAN SAYS U. S. COULD GET MILLION MEN IN DAY

Declares Wilson's Aims to Make People So Grateful They Will Die Willingly.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—That President Wilson's aim is to make the people of this country so grateful that they will be willing to die for their country; that a million men would be in arms by sundown should President Wilson issue a call, and that "you cannot make war for war unless you intend to make war" are statements contained in a speech Mr. Bryan made before the Baltimore Bar Association last night.

Mr. Bryan said that every citizen here until late to-day.

Declaring he was no more interested in the peace movement than the great mass of Americans, Mr. Bryan said:

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